ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Hartismere Rural District

For the Year ending December 31st, 1895.

J. E. G. Barnes

EYE:
W. ROPER, PRINTER, BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER,
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TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HARTISMERE.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report of the sanitary state of your district, prepared in accordance with the instructions issued by the Local Government Board.

Localities.—The localities adopted for the statistical parts of this report are the same as in previous reports. These are in reality the old Registration Districts, and are continued, although the Registration Districts have been altered, in order to allow of just comparison with previous reports. These "Localities" are constituted thus :—

Botesdale Division :—Consisting of the parishes of Botesdale, Burgate, Gislingham, Mellis, Palgrave,

Redgrave, Rickinghall Superior, and Wortham, containing in 1891 a population of 4,209, exclusive of the children in the Wortham Workhouse Schools.

Eye Division:—Consisting of the parishes of Brayesworth. Brome, Oakley, Occold, Redlingfield, Stoke Ash, Stuston, Thorndon, Thornham Magna and Parva, Thrandeston and Yaxley, containing in 1891 a population of 3,413. The municipal borough of Eye is excluded, as it forms a separate Sanitary District.

Mendlesham Division:—Consisting of the parishes of Aspall, Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Mendlesham, Rishangles, Thwaite, Westhorpe, Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford, Wickham Skeith and Wyverstone, containing in 1891 a population of 4,950.

Statistics relating to Births and Deaths are given *in extenso* in the appended tables, but the following principal conclusions may be here noted.

Births.—298 births were registered in your district during the year, being at the rate of 23·6 per 1,000 of population, the rates in former years being :—

1894	26·8
1893	26·6
1892	30·5
1891	27·7
1890	28·4
Average of 5 years, 1885-89	29·8
,, 5 years, 1880-84	32·2
,, 10 years, 1870-79	31·3

It will be noticed that, with the exception of the year 1892, the Birth-rate in recent years shows a considerable decline. The Birth-rate throughout England and Wales

shows a similar tendency to decline; that for 1895 being 30·3, and the average of the previous 10 years being 31·2. These rates, it will be noticed, are considerably higher than the corresponding rates in the Hartismere Rural District.

Marriages.—The number of Marriages in the District, which had shown a decided decrease in recent years, showed a further very considerable decrease in 1894—the returns for 1895 are not yet complete. The actual number of Marriages that took place in your District, and the Urban Sanitary District of Eye (which is not separated in the quarterly returns of the Registrar-General), was

1894	72
1893	79
1892	96
1891	94
1890	109
Average of 5 years, 1885-89	92
„ 5 years, 1880-84	94
„ 10 years, 1870-79	107

The Registrar-General has repeatedly pointed out that a high or low Marriage-rate bears a close correspondence with the prosperity or want of prosperity of the country. Studied from this point of view, the figures of the Hartismere Rural District are painfully significant of the depressed state of agriculture.

Deaths.—After correcting the registered number of deaths by the addition of the deaths in public institutions of persons belonging to the District, and the omission of deaths of persons not belonging to the District, but brought into the District with their fatal disease on them, the number

of deaths was 193, the Death-rate being 15·3 per 1,000. The rates in former years were—

1894	14·9
1893	15·4
1892	19·3
1891	17·3
1890	18·7
Average of 5 years, 1885-89	15·7
„ 5 years, 1880-84	16 0
„ 10 years, 1870-79	18·0

The death-rate in country districts in England and Wales is recorded by the Registrar-General as 17·0 per 1,000 in 1895, and as averaging 17·3 per 1,000 in the ten years 1885-94. The increase in the death-rate during the years 1890, 1891, and 1892 is, in my opinion, entirely due to the extensive outbreaks of influenza in those years. The same cause has also increased the average death-rate of the 5 years 1890-94, as compared with the preceding decade. It is satisfactory to note, however, that with the decline of influenza, the death-rate has again begun to show a satisfactory diminution.

The mortality of children under one year of age was 18·5 per cent. of the total deaths, and 12 per cent. of the registered births. The mortality amongst children under 5 years of age was 26·9 per cent. of the total deaths.

Zymotic Diseases.—The seven principal zymotic diseases, viz.: small-pox, measles, scarlet-fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, fever, and diarrhœa, caused 8 deaths.

Table B. (which shows the new cases of infectious sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health—the principal diseases being classified) shows

that small-pox was entirely absent from the district throughout the year: that scarlet fever prevailed to a small extent only throughout the district; that a considerable number of cases of diphtheria prevailed in the Botesdale Division, and 1 case in the Mendlesham Division; that only 2 cases of typhoid fever occurred in the district (in the Eye Division). One case of puerperal fever occurred in the Mendlesham Division. Eighteen cases of erysipelas were reported. No infectious disease occurred in the Workhouse at Eye nor in the Workhouse School at Wortham.

Comparison of Localities.—The following table shows the comparative mortality statistics of the three Divisions:

Divisions.	Death rate per 1000.		Percentage to total deaths	
	From all causes.	From seven principal zymotic diseases.	Deaths under one year.	Deaths under five years.
Eye	13·7	·6	21·2	29·7
Botesdale ...	19·9	·9	14·2	25·0
Mendlesham ...	12·5	·4	22·5	27·4

Systematic Inspection.—The work of systematic inspection and nuisance removal has been carried on as in former years, namely, by frequent inspection of all parts of the district by the inspector of nuisances, accompanied on some occasions by the Medical Officer of Health, the visits being so arranged that no portion of the district has escaped their joint supervision during the year, while separate visits have been made to such parts as seemed from special circumstances to require it. The sanitary state of

the district is well maintained. The following is a summary of the work done during the year, taken from the Sanitary Inspector's report: 362 notices have been given for sanitary improvements, 28 new privies have been built, and 3 new pail-closets made, 72 old ones cleansed and repaired, 21 removed from objectionable situations, 24 houses provided with new drainage, 26 house-drains repaired and trapped, 12 foul ditches cleansed, 19 accumulations of manure removed, 4 new cesspools made, 8 cesspools cleansed, 4 cesspools or gutters filled up, 8 cases of swine improperly kept removed, 6 cases of overcrowding abated, 13 houses repaired, 3 premises cleansed, 21 houses cleansed after infectious diseases, 1 public school cleansed after infectious diseases. In addition, the drainage at the Wortham Workhouse Schools has been ventilated, and partly relaid and extended.

In Table G. will be found a summary of the work of nuisance removal since my appointment as Medical Officer of Health in 1878, from which it appears that in your district during 18 years the number of notices given for sanitary improvements has averaged 279, and the number of nuisances removed has averaged 298 each year.

Sewers.—The only noticeable feature with regard to public sewers is that about 200 yards additional sewer has been put down in Mendlesham Street.

Water Supply.—I have made chemical analyses of 19 specimens of drinking water, of which I have reported 13 "unfit" for drinking or domestic uses. In consequence of my reports, the following results have been obtained : Nine

wells have been repaired and cleansed, supplying water to 25 houses ; three pumps have been repaired, supplying water to 32 houses ; and one new well has been made, supplying water to two houses. Thus 59 houses have during the year received an improved supply of water. The public wells throughout the district have been kept in order, five wells and pumps having been cleansed or repaired during the year, and two old public pumps have been replaced by new ones. Certificates that a proper supply of water has been provided have been granted for four new houses under the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878. The water supply of the Parish of Thorndon has been the subject of a lengthened investigation and report, and your Council have decided to provide an additional public well.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.—The number of cases notified under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, during the year was 44, and included :—

18 cases of erysipelas
11 cases of scarlet fever
11 cases of diphtheria
3 cases of typhoid (enteric) fever
1 case of puerperal fever

The results of the investigations made into these cases are shown in Table F, and may be thus summarised—Scarlet fever occurred in four parishes, four houses were affected and 11 cases and no deaths occurred. The cases were of a mild character. In no case did the disease spread beyond the house first affected. In three of the houses affected the disease was imported from outside your district, and in one case the origin was not traced.

Diphtheria occurred in four parishes, seven houses being affected, and 11 cases occurred, one only proving fatal. Seven of the cases reported were in Wortham and were survivals from last year's outbreak. In two instances obvious sanitary defects and impure water existed, and in one no sanitary defects were discovered. The disease at Wortham was spread by the culpable carelessness of those in charge of the sufferers in allowing healthy children to mix freely with those affected by visiting at each other's houses.

Erysipelas.—Eighteen cases were reported, none of them being fatal.

Typhoid (Enteric) Fever.—Three isolated cases occurred: in one instance associated with an impure water supply and defected drainage; in the others no sanitary defects were discovered.

Puerperal Fever.—One fatal case occurred in the Parish of Finningham.

Whooping Cough.—Five deaths from whooping cough occurred in the district. There were no deaths due to any other form of infectious disease than those mentioned.

The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, continues to work beneficially. The duty of notification imposed on householders has been better carried out than in previous years. The total number of cases notified has been considerably less than in any previous year.

Closure of Public Elementary Schools.—During the year 1895 the only school closed on account of Infectious

Diseases has been that at Burgate on account of the prevalence of Whooping Cough.

Offensive Trades.—The offensive trades of the district are few in number, and require no special comment. They are regularly kept under supervision. One case of keeping ducks on a large scale at Gislingham requires careful supervision.

No *Legal Proceedings* were taken during the year.

Future Action.—The future action required to maintain and further improve the sanitary condition of the district is, in my opinion, mostly a continuation of the past policy of the Board of Guardians, *i.e.*, the gradual improvement of the district by constant repression of nuisances as they arise, the protection of the water supplies from pollution, and great care with regard to the sanitary arrangements and water supply of the few newly-erected houses in the district, with regard to which your Council have great powers. The water supply has been and must remain a difficulty, it being in many instances impracticable to obtain a proper supply of water to existing houses within the cost limited by Act of Parliament. The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act should, I think, continue to be persistently enforced, whilst, as I stated in my former report, I considered the provision of Isolation Hospitals can only be economically and efficiently done by the action of the County Council.

Inspection of Bakehouses.—The principal bakehouses of the district have been visited from time to time by your Inspector, by myself, or sometimes by both in conjunction,

and are generally well kept. Some improvements necessary in one at Rickinghall Superior have been satisfactorily accomplished.

The duties of the Inspector of Nuisances have, in my opinion, been satisfactorily carried out.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

EDGAR G. BARNES, M.D., Lond.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Eye, Feb. 13, 1896.

TABLES

Appended to the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1895.

TABLE A. Table of **DEATHS** during the year 1895, in the Rural Sanitary District of Hartismere, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (*Columns for Population and Births are in Table B*). (a)	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages. At all ages. (b)	Under 1 year. (c)	1 and under 5. (d)	5 and under 15. (e)	15 and under 25. (f)	25 and under 65. (g)	65 and upwards. (h)	(i)	Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of children under five years of age. 1 Smallpox.	2 Scarlatina.	3 Diphtheria.	4 Membranous Croup.	5 Fevers. Typhus.	6 Enteric or Typhoid.	7 Continued.	8 Relapsing.	9 Puerperal.	10 Cholera.	11 Erysipelas.	12 Measles.	13 Whooping Cough.	14 Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	15 Rheumatic Fever.	16 Ague.	17 Phthisis.	18 Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy.	19 Heart Disease.	20 Injuries.	21 All Other Diseases.	22 TOTAL.
Mendlesham Division	60	14	3	4	4	12	23	Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	14	17
								5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	3	7	2	26	43
Botesdale Division	78	12	7	—	3	19	37	Under 5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	13	19
								5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	7	12	6	3	30	59
Eye Division	45	10	4	1	2	8	20	Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	6	—	—	5	14
								5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	2	3	19	31
Wortham House	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
								5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	183	36	14	5	9	39	80	Under 5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	2	10	—	1	32	50
								5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	13	19	15	8	75	133

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.	10	—	2	—	—	—	8	Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
								5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	5	8
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
								5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Area in Acres 49,199
Population (1891) 12,627

Death Rates. { General 15·3 per 1,000 Population.
Infant 120 per 1,000 Births Registered.

TABLE B.

TABLE OF **POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS,** coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the Rural Sanitary District of HARTISMERE; classified according to DISEASES, AGES and LOCALITIES.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities. (a.)	Population at all Ages. Census, 1891. (b.)	Population at all Ages. Estimated to middle of 1893. (c.)	Registered Births. (d)	Aged under 5 or over 5. (e.)	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health. 1 Smallpox.	2 Scarlatina.	3 Diphtheria.	4 Membranous Croup.	5 Fevers. Typhus.	6 Fevers. Enteric or Typhoid.	7 Fevers. Continued	8 Fevers. Relapsing.	9 Fevers. Puerperal	10 Cholera.	11 Erysipelas.
Mendlesham Division ...	4950	4950	121	Under 5	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				5 upwds.	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	10
Botesdale Division ...	4209	4209	104	Under 5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				5 upwds.	—	1	9	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Eye Division	3413	3413	73	Under 5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				5 upwds.	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	5
Wortham House ...	55	42	—	Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				5 upwds.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	12627	12614	298	Under 5	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				5 upwds.	—	8	10	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	18

"Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District since January 1st, 1890.
There is no infectious hospital in the district.

TABLE C. HARTISMERE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Table showing the Population, Births, Deaths and Marriages for the year 1895, compared with the averages of the five years 1890-94, the five years 1885-89, the five years 1880-84, and the 10 years 1870-79

	Hartismere Rural Sanitary District.				Botesdale Division.			Eye Division.			Mendlesham Division.		
	Estimtd. Popultn.	Births	Deaths *	Marriages including Boro' of Eye	Estimtd. Popultn.	Births.	Deaths *	Estimtd. Popultn.	Births.	Deaths *	Estimtd. Popultn.	Births.	Deaths *
1895.	12614	298	193		4209	104	84	3413	73	47	4950	121	62
Average of 5 years 1890-94.	12635	354	216	90	4217	116	71	3417	93	53	4955	145	91
Average of 5 years 1885-89.	12973	387	204	92	4365	127	75	3493	103	53	5046	157	75
Average of 5 years 1880-84.	13408	432	215	94	4559	143	83	3597	113	55	5170	177	81
Average of 10 years, 1870-79.	14032	440	253	107	4801	145	92	3825	117	62	5390	179	102

The children in Wortham Schools are included in the population of the Hartismere District, but not in that of the Botesdale Division.

	Hartismere R.S.D.	Botesdale Divn.	Eye Division.	Mendlesham Division.
No. of Inhabited Houses 1891 ...	2857	980	766	1111
Population at Census, 1891 ...	12627	4209	3413	4950
Average No. of Persons in each House	4·4	4·3	4·4	4·4
Area in Acres	49199	14602	14716	19881

* Corrected by the addition of deaths in Workhouse, and the exclusion of persons coming into the District with their fatal illness on them.

TABLE D.

HARTISMERE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT

Table showing Annual Birth-rate, Rate of Mortality and Percentage of Deaths amongst children during the year 1895, compared with the averages of the five years 1890-94, the five years 1885-89, the five years 1880-84, and the ten years 1870-79.

	Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 population.				Annual Rate of Mortality per 1,000 population.				Deaths of Children under one year. Percentage to Total Deaths.				Deaths of Children under one year. Percentage to Registered Births.				Deaths of Children under 5 years. Percentage to Total Deaths.			
Division or District.	Har.	Botes.	Eye.	Mend.	Har.	Botes.	Eye.	Mend.	Har.	Botes.	Eye.	Mend.	Har.	Botes.	Eye.	Mend.	Har.	Botes.	Eye.	Mend.
1895	23·6	24·7	21·3	24·4	15·3	19·9	13·7	12·5	18·5	14·2	21·2	22·5	12·0	11·5	13·6	11·5	26·9	25·0	29·7	27·4
Average of 5 years 1890-94	28·0	27·6	27·3	29·0	17·1	16·9	15·6	18·3	16·5	17·6	13·6	16·8	10·0	10·7	7·8	10·7	25·0	25·8	22·3	25·6
Average of 5 years 1885-89	29·8	29·0	29·4	31·1	15·7	17·1	15·1	14·8	18·4	17·2	18·3	19·8	9·7	10·3	9·2	9·5	26·6	25·7	23·9	29·2
Average of 5 years 1880-84	32·2	31·3	31·4	34·2	16·0	18·2	15·2	15·6	20·2	20·8	20·0	20·2	9·7	11·4	9·6	8·7	31·4	32·5	31·1	31 7
Average of 10 years 1870-79	31·3	30·2	30·5	33·1	18·0	19·1	16·2	18·8	20·9				12·1				28·4			

TABLE E.

HARTISMERE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Table showing the Number of DEATHS from each of the 7 Principal ZYMOTIC DISEASES for the year 1895, compared with the averages of the five years 1890-94, the five years 1885-89, the five years 1880-84; and the ten years 1870-79.

Disease.	1895	Average of 5 years 1890-94.	Average of 5 years, 1885-89.	Average of 5 years, 1880-84.	Average of 10 years, 1870-79.
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	·4
Measles	—	2·2	1·0	2·4	2·1
Scarlet Fever	—	1·4	·2	4·8	3·5
Diphtheria	1	1·8	2·0	4·4	1·7
Whooping Cough	5	4·4	4·8	3·2	5·8
Fever	1	1·4	·6	2·6	4·3
Diarrhœa	1	4·6	3·2	4·4	5·7
Totals	8	15·8	11·8	21·8	23·5

TABLE F.

HARTISMERE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Table showing particulars of *Outbreaks of Zymotic Diseases* investigated during the year 1894.

Date.	Disease.	Locality.	Origin of Outbreak, Sanitary Defects, &c.	Houses affected.	Persons attacked.	Deaths.
February	Scarlet Fever.	Oakley	Importation from adjoining district.	1	3	—
April	,,	Westhorpe	Importation from London.	1	3	—
,,	,,	Redgrave	Origin not traced.	1	1	—
November	,,	Wickh'mSkeith	Importation from adjoining district.	1	4	—
				4	11	—
January	Diphtheria	Burgate	Privy very offensive. Water supply impure.	1	1	—
March	,,	Botesdale	Unventilated cesspool communicating directly with house through untrapped sink. Water impure.	1	2	1
Mar. to May	,,	Wortham	Revival of last year's outbreak.	4	7	—
October	,,	Wickh'mSkeith	No sanitary defects discovered.	1	1	—
				7	11	1
February	PuerperalFever	Finningham		1	1	1
				1	1	1
August	Typhoid Fever	Occold	Water supply impure. Drainage Defective.	1	1	—
September	,,	Stoke	No sanitary defects discovered.	1	1	—
November	,,	Mellis	No sanitary defects discovered.	1	1	—
				3	3	—

TABLE G.

HARTISMERE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT

Summary of Sanitary Work from 1878 to 1895 inclusive.

	Averages of 5 years, 1878-82.	Averages of 5 years, 1883-87.	Averages of 5 years, 1888-92.	1893.	1894.	1895.
Notices given for Sanitary Improvements.... ...	255	275	280	317	302	362
Privies new (including earth and water closets) ...	39	34	15	14	26	31
,, repaired, &c.	112	106	64	120	68	93
Drainage, new	25	23	15	13	13	24
,, repaired, &c.	28	34	26	41	16	26
Cesspools, new	3	3	3	1	1	4
,, and foul ditches cleansed	17	17	24	18	18	20
,, ,, filled up	23	12	12	8	4	4
Manure nuisances removed	23	16	17	30	22	19
Animals improperly kept removed	11	10	5	7	7	8
Houses and premises cleansed	5	5	4	5	2	3
Overcrowding abated	5	4	4	3	3	6
Houses cleansed after infectious diseases	44	25	26	63	76	22
Analyses of drinking water made	20	19	32	27	15	19
New water supply provided	3	5	3	1	1	3
Existing water supply purified	9	15	13	34	12	10
New houses certified under Public Health (Water) Act	3	8	4	1	5	4
Unclassified	0·5	0·2	1·2	1	7	20
Legal proceedings	2·4	0·2	1·2	5	4	0